Our 110th year serving the greater Carbondale area --Cedric Chubb Arnold

Ca Jale News

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Restoration committee continuing to work

Volunteer work in the effort to restore Carbondale City Hall continued as several members of the restoration committee shoveled several tons of pigeon waste and other debris from two upper levels of the clock tower on April 3. The waste and debris will soon be removed from the building.

While cleaning in City Hall on March 20, as part of the restoration effort, John V. Buberniak, a member of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc., found a carbon copy of "A Geographical History of the Cities, Boroughs and Townships and Their Subdivisions in Lackawanna County Commonwealth of Pennsylvania."

This book, which is not now generally available in libraries, was sponsored by the County Commissioners and written in August 1939, as a project under the Works Progress Administration, Area Number 1. The project head was John K. Blackledge.

Contained in this history is the geography of the cities, borough and townships within Lackawanna County, as well as all subsequent ward and district subdivisions and their original and current polling places. There is a separate section for each major area, with all items indexed and arranged chronologically.

In order that this important book might be accessible to the greatest number of readers possible, Sheffield Publications, Inc., Carbondale, produced, free of charge, three facsimiles of this carbon copy for the Committee. On April 2, 1982, those three facsimiles were presented, with the compliments of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc., to: the Carbondale Historical Society-Carbondale Public Library; the Lackawanna Historical Society; and the Scranton Public Library.

The significance of this discovery is that no other copy of this book may be in existence, as the NEWS has failed to track down the original copy of the book.

Mr. Robert Powell, president of The Committee To Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc., received a letter from William P. Lewis, executive director of the Lackawanna Historical Society, regarding the sending of a copy of the document to the group's office. The letter stated:

"Thank you very much for the copy of the "Geographical History of the Cities, Borough, and Townships in Lackawanna County, Pa."

"This is a valuable reference book which we are glad to add to our files here. Many thanks for thinking of us and sending us a copy."